

Serial No. 10/529,403**Atty. Doc. No. 2002P13112WOUS**

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

ABSTRACT

~~Disclosed is a~~ A method for providing absence information in a telecommunication system comprising several subscribers, wherein the absence information is produced and captured by ~~means of a first subscriber on a first terminal which is associated with said subscriber.~~ The presence information is ~~then~~ transmitted to a switching node and stored therein. The switching node transmits the absence information to a second subscriber terminal ~~which is associated with a second subscriber such that the absence information is continuously available.~~ ~~The known performance characteristics absence text and station guarding services of a telecommunication system are used in order to produce and store absence information.~~